

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: CONTINUING REVERBERATIONS IN TURKEY FROM U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE REFERENCES TO LOCKHEED PAYMENTS

REF: ANKARA 1039

1. REVELATIONS OF LOCKHEED PAYMENTS OF \$876,000 TO NEZIH DURAL, U.S. COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY, HAVE BROADENED BEYOND PRESS CONCERN WITH GOT OFFICIALS NOW INVOLVED. ALL POLITICAL PARTIES DENY THEY HAVE BEEN RECIPIENTS OF LOCKHEED MONEY. MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAS OPENED INVESTIGATION AND 14 OPPOSITION DEPUTIES HAVE CALLED FOR PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER. AIR FORCE AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED ANY PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES. PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE AIR FORCE OFFI-

CERS WOULD ACCEPT BRIBES. DEFENSE MINISTER MELEN IS CONDUCTING REVIEW AND PROMISED TO MAKE STATEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NEZIH DURAL HAS REPORTEDLY GONE TO U.S., (PRE-SUMABLY TO CONSULT WITH LOCKHEED).

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2. LETTER BY 14 OPPOSITION DEPUTIES DEMANDING PARLIAMENTARY IN-

VESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED LOCKHEED PAYMENTS HAS BEEN RELEASED TO PRESS. LETTER STATES THAT REVELATIONS OF SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HAVE SHOWN BEYOND DOUBT THAT AMERICAN MULTINATIONAL FIRMS HAVE BEEN INTERFERING ILLEGALLY IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF TURKEY AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION MUST EXAMINE MATTER AND UNCOVER THE GUILTY. ACCORDING TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS LETTER, "THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF MORALITY, BUT HAS BECOME A MATTER OF HONOR FOR TURKISH SOCIETY AND THE TURKISH REPUBLIC."

3. REPORTS FROM SOME NEWS AGENCIES THAT LOCKHEED BRIBES HAD BEEN PAID TO TURKISH POLITICAL PARTIES ELICITED IMMEDIATE DENIALS FROM PARTY SPOKESMEN. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) SPOKESMAN, ISMAIL HAKKI YILDIRIM SAID, "IT MUST BE EXPLAINED TO WHOM THE BRIBES WERE GIVEN. THE JP CAN HAVE NO RELATION WITH SUCH BRIBES. I DOUBT WHETHER ANY BRIBES WERE EVER OFFERED TO THE JP PARTY." MUSTAFA USTUNDAG, SPEAKING FOR THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) SAID, "NO ONE HAS EVEN OFFERED A BRIBE TO THE RPP." SMALLER PARTIES (DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND UNITY PARTY) TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO POINT OUT THAT THEY NOT ONLY DID NOT AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT

BRIBES, BUT THAT IF BRIBES WERE OFFERED IN TURKEY THEY WOULD BE OFFERED TO LARGER PARTIES IN POSITIONS OF POWER.

4. RETIRED AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND RPP SENATOR MUHSIN BATUR DENIED HE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH LOCKHEED AFFAIR, STATING THAT HE RETIRED IN 1973 AND F-104S'S WERE BOUGHT IN 1974. AIR FORCE COMMANDER ALPKAYA SAID THAT "F-104S'S WERE PURCHASED AFTER CYPRUS OPERATION IN ORDER TO MEET PRESSING NEEDS. THE PLANES WERE NOT PURCHASED FROM AMERICA BUT FROM ITALY. WE ONLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE PLANES WERE REQUIRED. THE DECISION TO PURCHASE THE PLANES WAS MADE UNDER NORMAL PROCEDURES BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE."

5. PRESS COMMENT HAS GENERALLY FOCUSED ON FACTUAL REPORTING OF SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND STATEMENTS OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED WITH POLITIKA AND HURRIYET COMMENTARY AT OPPOSITE POLES. POLITIKA ASKED "DO THE BROKERS DEFINE DEFENSE NEEDS" AND WENT ON TO WARN THAT ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY ENGAGED IN BY AMERICAN FIRMS SUCH AS LOCKHEED SHOULD MAKE TURKEY EXTRA CAREFUL IN ARMS PROCUREMENT. MASS-CIRCULATED OFFICIAL USE

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TION HURRIYET STATED THAT WHILE LOCKHEED REVELATIONS IS CONTINUATION OF A "MASOCHISTIC TREND" THAT BEGAN IN U.S. WITH WATERGATE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, "INVESTIGATING SUCH EVENTS WITHIN THE LAW AND OPENLY PUNISHING THE OFFENDERS WILL INCREASE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE." BERGUS

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